

# HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



Thiepval Memorial (See page 9)

# **2016 PROGRAMME OF OUR MEETINGS**

Unless stated otherwise meetings take place at Hillingdon Baptist Church, 25 Hercies Road, Hillingdon, Middlesex. UB10 9LS Doors open at 7.30 p.m.

<b>DATE</b> Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	SPEAKER	SUBJECT Members' Research Stories
Tuesday 22nd November Joint meeting with U3A Starts at 2.00 pm	Audrey Collins	'There and Back Again: Going Away Doesn't Mean Staying Away'
DECEMBER	NO MEETING	NO MEETING

Please remember that we always welcome visitors to our meetings and that the entrance fee for them is £1.

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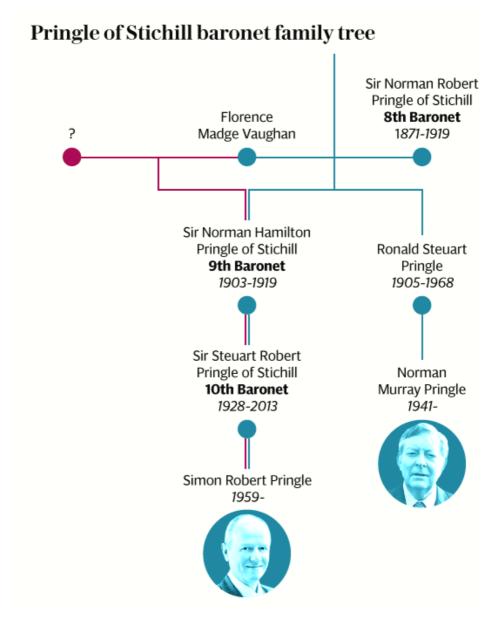
Contributions to the Journal are encouraged and should be sent to the e-mail address above or by post John Symons, (address on back cover).

# A LARGE PRINT VERSION IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

## A CHAIRMAN'S NOTES A

Ian Harvey

As many of you know, I am somewhat sceptical about the use of DNA in family history. In the last edition of the journal John Symons revealed his experience with DNA testing which, I hope he won't mind me saying, was half successful. His paternal ancestors proved out but his maternal ancestors did not. To quote his article: 'As yet I have no proven links on my maternal family. This may be down to known illegitimacy events but there could be other reasons?'



Which brings me to the curious case of the Baronetcy of Pringle of Stichill. The son of the 10<sup>th</sup> Baronet, Simon Robert Pringle, was challenged by his second cousin, Norman Murray Pringle, as to whether he was descended from a legitimate branch of the family.

The terms of the Baronetcy were that when Charles II created the first Baronet that the title would pass down through the 'male heirs from this body'. If the line of descent in some way interrupted, then another line of descent would need to be followed. This was where HM the Queen got involved.

It is hard to believe that a 90 year old monarch would have to get involved in a spat between two cousins but I suppose that is one of the things that monarchs do. Her Majesty instructed the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council to give its opinion 'as to which applicant or respondent should be entered on the Official Roll of the Baronetage'. The Committee would do so under the Judicial Committee Act 1833. The last time that it was used regarding a Baronetcy was in 1927. This is when history bangs into modernity.

The deciding evidence was – yes you have guessed it – DNA. The Judges concluded that the DNA demonstrated 'a high degree of probability' that Sir Norman Hamilton Pringle was not the son of Sir Norman Robert Pringle and as a result the Baronetcy should pass to Norman Murray Pringle. Both winner and loser appear to have accepted and responded to the decision impeccably.

All of which leads me to a number of conclusions:

- 1) HM the Queen gets involved in more obscure things than we could ever realise (Barry Twigg can probably give us a talk on this);
- 2) legislation from the first half of the 19th century is still active in the 21st century;
- 3) that the aristocracy, whose family trees are usually well mapped out, may have some cracks in the wallpaper like all the rest of us;
- 4) that DNA may have a use in determining legitimacy.

The latter is a moral maze. It opens the question of Who Do You Think You Are? Do you really want to know? There is a reason why our ancestors had bulges under their carpets!

#### **EDITORS' JOTTINGS**

Alan and John

We were very pleased to receive the following email from Philip Sherwood:

#### Dear John

I attach a sequel to the article that was published in your March edition that you may find useful if you are short of material.

I find the contents of the Journal very interesting but I would prefer to see the names of the authors at the beginning rather than at the end of each article.

Best Wishes

Philip

#### Two things here:

It seems that Philip finds our efforts worthwhile which is good news for us.

He also suggests a small change in our presentation which as you read on you will see we have taken up.

Apart from more articles and your continued support this feedback is what we need from you. So let us have your views on the journal and suggestions for improvements.

Thank you Philip.

Anyone with Somerset and/or Norfolk connections will welcome the latest additions to the Ancestry collection. Parish Records for both counties are now available on line.

#### **DON'T FORGET!**

## THE DECEMBER JOURNAL DEADLINE IS 7<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

#### TALES FROM THE HARLINGTON PARISH REGISTERS

by Philip Sherwood

In my article about the Harlington Parish Registers, which appeared in the March 2016 edition of the Society's Journal, I described how in the mid 1980s the late Connie ZOUCH and I transcribed these Registers.

Since we made those transcriptions I have, from time to time, received requests for information about their contents. I have often been able to help and most recipients are very grateful but it is occasionally annoying not to receive a word of thanks after carrying out research on behalf of a complete stranger. It has been suggested that, when there are several items to pass on to an enquirer, only one should be sent and the remainder passed on only after an acknowledgement. I have been tempted to adopt this approach but so far have not done so.

One enquiry that I was very pleased to receive was from Jayne Hyslop who it later transpired was my third cousin once removed. She lives in Canada and the first that I knew of her was when I saw a message on the www.hayesmiddlesex.com website asking if anybody knew how I could be contacted by e-mail because she understood that I had some information on the COTTERELL family. I responded to this and she asked if I had any information on a William COTTERELL who she thought had been born in Harlington in about 1826. The only contender in the registers that I could find was a William the son of Solomon and Abigail COTTERELL who had been baptised at Harlington on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1822. Jayne knew when, where and who William had married so I suggested that she should obtain a copy of the marriage certificate which would give the name of the father of both parties. This showed that William's father was indeed named Solomon so he was the brother of my great-grandfather Thomas. Jayne and I were therefore both direct descendants of Solomon and Abigail.

The marriage certificate was of interest to me because of the names of the witnesses, one was Elizabeth COTTRELL (the spelling of the name seems to have changed after Solomon who could not write and this is how Elizabeth – who could - wrote her name) she was almost certainly William's sister. But of much more relevance was the other witness William EAGLES which gave me a positive link with the EAGLES family which I had long sought. (contd.)

Solomon and Abigail were married at Ealing on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1819. On their marriage certificate her maiden name is given as AGALE, a most unusual surname and one that does not occur in the London telephone directory and only once in the 1881 Census returns for the whole of the country.

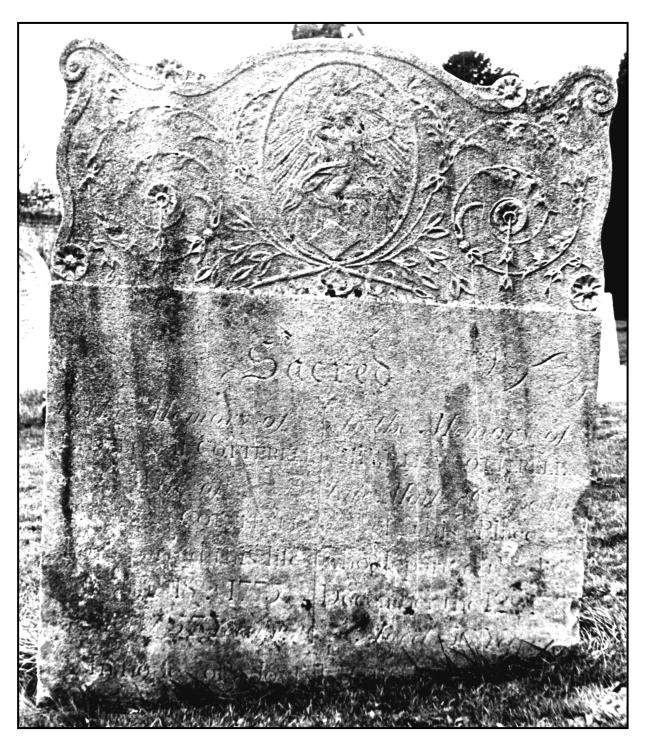
The 1851 Census returns for Harlington indicate that Abigail was born in Heston in 1801 whilst those for 1861 and 1871 state that she was born in Isleworth in 1802. There is no mention of anybody named Abigail having been baptised in the early 1800s in the Heston Parish registers but the Isleworth registers have the baptism of Abigail the daughter of John and Anne EAGLES on 14th February 1800. I was fairly confident that she was the person for whom I was looking and I suspect that the incumbent at Ealing misheard the name and wrote AGALE instead of EAGLES. As neither Solomon nor Abigail was able to sign their names on their marriage certificate they would have been unable to detect this. The William EAGLES who had witnessed the marriage of Solomon and Abigail's son William was probably therefore a close relation.

Solomon's inability to write his name is not unusual for the period except that I am virtually certain that Solomon's father and grandfather (both named William) were in turn all Parish Clerks of Harlington. His illiteracy is therefore hard to explain but it does account for the loss of the middle 'e' from the family name after Solomon.

A further bonus from my contact with Jayne is that she was able to direct me to a copy of the will of William COTTERELL (1719 – 1777) who was Solomon's grandfather. His will is dated 29<sup>th</sup> October 1777 and in it he leaves generous sums of money to his four children. He also leaves various items of his clothing from which it is possible to deduce that he had a best mourning (sic) suit, a red waistcoat, a grey coat and at least one pair of buckskin breeches. Unfortunately he doesn't detail any other items which he lumps together under 'Real Estate, Personal Estate, Goods and Chattels' which were all left to his son John.

According to his tombstone in the churchyard William died on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1777 and the registers record that he was buried exactly one week later. William was buried with his wife Deborah who according to the registers had been buried on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1777 but strangely the tombstone claims that she had died two years earlier on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1775.

### Tombstone of William and Deborah COTTERELL 1777 in Harlington Churchyard before its removal



The tombstone that had stood undisturbed for almost 200 years was illegally removed in the early 1970s, at the instigation of the then incumbent and placed against the wall of the churchyard.

However, the removal did have the unexpected benefit of revealing that the grave also contained another body.

Over the years the stone had sunk into the ground and when it was dug up an additional inscription 'Also William son of the above who died Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> 1825 aged 72 Years' could be clearly seen. This particular William was the father of Solomon and my 3 x great-grandfather. It is probable that Solomon's mother Esther (1752-1837) was also buried in the same grave.

Solomon himself died at the age of 82 and was buried in 1869 in a grave immediately next to that of his father and grandfather; so providing further evidence of the relationship between them.

#### MISSION ACCOMPLISHED – THE SOMME CENTENARY

Jenny Mundy



In the September 2015 Journal I wrote of my grandfather Ernest COLLINGE's WW1 medals and my dream to wear them at the centenary commemoration of the first day of the battle. Grandfather's name is recorded on the Thiepval Memorial in Picardy which is where the event was to take place.

I registered in the ballot for tickets for this event but sadly was not successful. Prompted by my son I carried out another internet search and discovered that the Somme Association in Ulster had a trip organised to visit the commemoration concentrating on the Ulster Tower near Thiepval. This tower was erected to the memory of the 36<sup>th</sup> (Ulster) Division and other men of Ulster who fought in World War One. Most of this party would be flying from Belfast, but there were coach parties as well leaving from London. Despite the probability that the trip was already fully booked, on the principle that if you don't ask you definitely won't get, I asked by email if there were any vacancies.

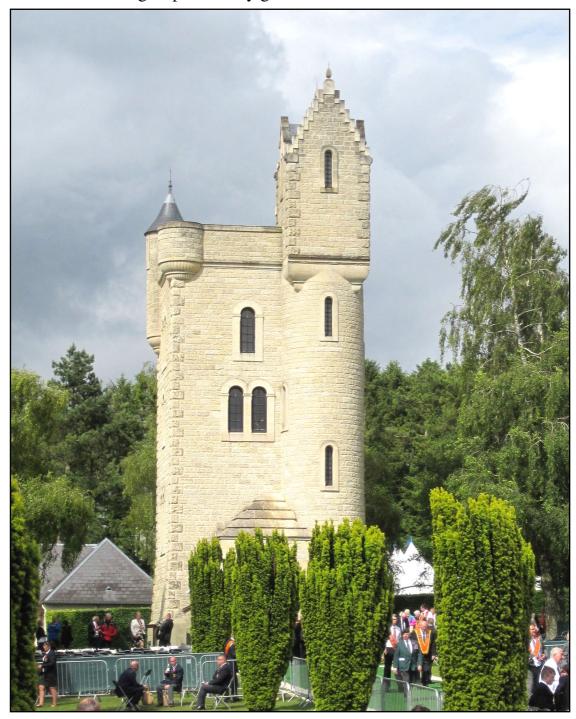
For several weeks I heard nothing and almost gave up hope.

Then happily towards the end of April I received word that there was a vacancy – there must have been a cancellation. It all seemed so right although grandfather born in Lancashire, he had moved to work on an Irish estate in County Down where he met and married housemaid Isabella BALLENTINE and later enlisted in the 15th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles part of the 36th Ulster Division. I would travel in a group to where he had been with the North Belfast 'Pals Battalion'. My travelling companions had similar reasons for going and I hoped they would have more information of the Ulster forces and maybe my grandfather.

I left home at quarter past midnight on Thursday morning 30<sup>th</sup> June, drove to the coach pick up Willow Wren Wharf, Hayes from where we travelled to Dover for the overnight ferry to Calais. As dawn gradually broke my travelling companion Rosemary Nelson and I had breakfast and talked about the relatives we were remembering. As we travelled to Paris to pick up the rest of the party at Charles de Gaulle Airport, we continued to share information. She spoke of two great uncles in the 'Inniskillings', one who died on the Somme earning a special decoration and another who had returned. I talked of my grandfather and showed her the information and photographs I had taken with me. With our full complement onboard we travelled onwards to Compiegne where we were to stay. In the evening the whole party had a meal in the Bistrot de Flandre, a restaurant across the river from the hotel where we had a chance to get to know some of the other people.

We were all up early on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July for the journey to the Somme. As we boarded the coach some people were in clerical garb and uniforms; they were to take part in the service. As the courier pointed out it was not a tour but a pilgrimage and people spoke about their relatives for whom they had made the journey to the commemoration. Many had relatives who had returned from the war, one another Jenny whose grandfather spoke of him and read to us an article from the local Newry paper celebrating his actions. One lady's mother had flown over from Durban to join her on the trip and one man had come from Canada. The atmosphere was intense and emotional. Our coaches had special notices on them and as we neared the security area at Bapaume we were waved through by the gendarmes. En route ordinary French people were coming out of their houses standing, waving and smiling at us as we passed.

At Bapaume we had to de-bus while dogs checked the coaches and everyone went through strict security checks after which the coaches were escorted in groups of 10 by gendarmes to the Ulster Tower.



The Ulster Memorial Tower, dedicated 19<sup>th</sup> November 1921, was the first official memorial to be erected on the Western Front.

It is a replica of an Ulster landmark 'Helen's Tower' in Clandeboye, County Down in the shadow of which many of the newly formed 36th Ulster Division trained before leaving for England and later France. Built on what was the German front line during the battle of the Somme, it marks the Schwaben Redoubt, the objective which the Ulster Division attacked from Thiepval Woods across the fields with the loss of many lives. I had not realised just how close the Ulster Tower is to the huge memorial at Thiepval.

As we entered the gates we were checked in by members of the Royal Irish Regiment, the unit resulting from mergers including the Royal Irish Rifles. It was the first time I had seen soldiers wearing a harp cap badge. This brought a lump to my throat as they were almost identical to my grandfather's. They also wore a ceremonial chain and whistle which a soldier explained is in memory of those blown to send the men climbing out of the trenches to attack up hill across the fields to the Schwaben Redoubt. That day grandfather Ernest was declared missing believed killed in action. My grandmother said that one of his friends told her that he had seen Ernest lying wounded but had been unable to stop. His body was never found and his name is among those missing at Thiepval.



The field next to the Ulster Tower

In the waiting time before the service I stood and looked down the valley across the field up which they had fought, there whatever was left of Grandfather Ernest would have been, now with poppies growing wild. Standing in the rain and mud I thought 'Grandfather we didn't know you but have learned about you. I am here wearing your medals with pride for what you did and to let you know that your family have not forgotten you.'



Jenny wearing her Grandfather's medals.

It was raining as Prince Charles and Camilla came down from the morning ceremony at Thiepval to join in the afternoon service at the Tower.

Various flags of British legions and French associations were paraded; the band of the Royal Irish Regiment marched in followed by the party escorting the Regimental colours. The regimental drums were stacked and draped with the flags by the chaplains for makeshift altars as they would have been on the battle fields. In the service we heard the Bible reading including;

'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends'

This was followed by details of the 4 Ulster men each awarded the Victoria Cross for their bravery and sacrifice.

Letters written home by soldiers and a letter from a mother to a minister about her son were read. In the silences bird song could be heard as well as the sound of the wind rustling the trees which was reminiscent of the sound of many feet marching softly forward.

Throughout the very moving service the emphasis was placed on remembrance of the soldiers who had given their lives in the hope of ending war followed by peace for all time. The need was also stressed that in our time peace and reconciliation should be promoted.

Prince Charles led the wreath laying ceremony placing a wreath with Prince of Wales plumes at the base of the Tower, followed by Irish politicians from both sides of the border one wreath bearing ribbons of green white and orange. Wreaths laid by the representative of the French state and the mayors of local French towns bore the blue, white and red of the French tricolour.

Councillors from Belfast and numerous other Irish towns as well as many lodge representatives honoured the dead with poppy wreaths.

Following the laying of the official wreaths some private individuals laid wreaths and the traditional small wooden crosses with a poppy. Certainly a day I will never forget.

The Last Post was played by a Bugler from the Regiment and Piper David Hogg, dressed in WWI uniform, played a lament. Also in this picture can be seen the marquee mentioned below.



While those from the lodges went to a special memorial towards the back of the site Rosemary and I stood by the poppy field and talked.

We were approached by a journalist from Radio Ulster who recorded interviews with us both about why we were there and our feelings about the day.

We left the tower with shoes bearing Somme mud. The coach going back to the hotel was very quiet.

On the following day we went to

Guillemont for a short remembrance service where the 6th Irish Division fought a battle in September. The bugler and piper were on hand again, soldiers of the Regiment paraded and more wreaths were laid at the memorial in front of the village church.

Inside the church the ceiling is decorated with words of peace in the different languages of the varying combatants in the war and curiously there was one in Chinese (see the picture below).



(contd.)

We were honoured to be invited to a surprise reception given by the 'maire' of the town in a marquee beside the church where village people served French wine or beer and slices of locally made brioche. After a late departure we drove to Authuille where lunch had been laid on in the Salle de Fete by the Royal Irish Regiment after which we could visit the nearby Authuille Military Cemetery.

I had put together an information pack about grandfather which several people read with interest and asked questions about things like the picture of the embroidered handkerchief grandfather had sent home from France and the photograph of him with other soldiers in a tented camp.

I would like to identify the men in the picture and where it was taken. I was given a contact by a member of the party where I might get assistance with this. The daughter, whose mother had come from Durban, asked if I could explain something on one of the papers her mother had printed out. I told her that it gave the row number and grave number of the grave of her grandfather and also explained to her how she could go online and get a picture of the headstone, she told me that they hadn't realised that he had a grave. Unfortunately we ran out of time for a planned trip to the Thiepval Trenches.

In the early evening we returned to the Tower where there was a reception held by the Colonel of the Regiment. The 'Lambeg Drums', traditional Irish drums which are enormous and beaten in a fast rhythm with curved wooden staves producing a loud and rousing sound which quickly quietened the audience ready for the start of the Beating of the Retreat by the Band and Corps of Drums of the Royal Irish Regiment. The music was varied and well played ending as is traditional with the closing ceremony of a military day and our departure from the Tower to return to Compiegne after another packed day.

The following morning when we got on the coach to start our return journey I was greeted by the lady from Durban who was so excited as she thanked me and showed me the picture of the headstone her daughter had got online the night before. We left Compiegne at 9.30 a.m. stopping first at the airport for the majority of the party who had travelled by 'plane. This left just Rosemary and I on the coach to head for Calais and a queue for the ferry. On the way we passed the refugee encampment known as 'The Jungle' as we neared the port.

Greeted by the white cliffs of Dover on our return, our drive back to London was slowed down in places by a large number of other drivers returning from weekends away. Did a certain football competition have something to do with that? In the early evening we said goodbye in Hayes exchanging contacts tired but both glad we had been. We both hoped that at some future date to complete a tour of the trenches.

Photographs by: The army group photograph was inherited by Jenny. All other photographs by Jenny Mundy except for 'The Bugler and Piper' and Jenny wearing her medals which are by Rosemary Nelson

#### 'GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS'

By Lewis Ashley-Jones

This article was sent to us by Paul Davidson (Assistant Archivist Hillingdon Local Studies Archives and Museum Service). It was written by a Vyners School pupil, Lewis Ashley-Jones, who recently spent a week on work experience with Paul. This is his first piece of research and relates to an article in the Gazette about an old Evelyn's School headmaster.

The title of this article is inscribed on a gravestone in France, one of thousands of British and Commonwealth stones across the Channel. The gravestone belongs to a forgotten hero of Hillingdon, whose story has been barely told in the hundred years since his death. Using local archives as well as genealogy websites such as Ancestry.com, I turned a name and an inscription into a man with a family, a life and a history.

Evelyn Godfrey WORSLEY was born in 6<sup>th</sup> March 1885 in Hillingdon and was baptised at St John the Baptist church on 6th April the same year.

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hick Evolyn Godfrey Horsley Bretzen Seguine Softing an Seguine	J. H. The

He was born into a relatively wealthy family, as his father Godfrey Thomas WORSLEY owned and founded Evelyn's school (1872-1931) near the later Hillingdon Hospital. In 1903 he went to Magdalen College, Oxford where he received a history degree before returning to Hillingdon around 1910.



Much of his life is unknown to us, but the 1911 census revealed that in 1910, aged 25, he married Katherine Maria Theodosia RASHLEIGH in Kent.

A year later in Hillingdon they had their first child, Margaret Katherine, on the 14th May; and three years later they had another daughter, Diana Mary, on 26th February 1914.

Using Ancestry I found that in 1912 he became headmaster of his father's school aged 27, where he remained until 1916 when he enlisted with the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards as a 2nd Lieutenant. I then searched through the military records on Ancestry and I found that sadly his

military career only lasted one month, as on 17th September 1916 he succumbed to wounds inflicted at the Somme. He died in France aged 31.

Posthumously awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal, Evelyn was buried in France at the Corbie Communal Cemetery, (Plot 2, Row E, Grave 5).

Tragically, his younger brother John Fortescue WORSLEY, in the same battalion, was killed a month later.

A hundred years later, this article tries to remember Evelyn WORSLEY's sacrifice for our country in the bloodiest battle of the First World War.

#### WAS HE BORN IN A 'PUB'?

By John Bridger

According to my father's birth certificate the address at which he was born was the Shoulder of Mutton, 205 High Street, Swansea.

Despite this I have always been puzzled as to what sort of establishment it was since over the years it has been described variously as a public house, eating house, refreshment rooms with licence as well as refreshment rooms with accommodation. It always looked like a pub to me whenever I passed it and indeed it was described as such in a bankruptcy petition in the London Gazette 10<sup>th</sup> April 1984. However although the address of the bankruptcy business was 205 High Street, Swansea and the named person was described as a publican the name of the establishment was given as Ye Old Welsh Oak.

I never gave the matter much thought until recently when I looked into my grandfather's will of 1906 (probate granted 1919).

His executor was his brother-in-law Richard FRAYNE described as a licensed victualler residing at The Welsh Oak, formerly The Shoulder of Mutton, 205 High Street, Swansea. However according to the wording in the will my grandfather was described as 'restaurant keeper' of The Shoulder of Mutton so between 1906 and 1919 the name had changed. I was still curious and decided to look into it further.

First I needed to find out the 19<sup>th</sup> century definition of 'eating house'. The nature of such an establishment was described by Charles Knight (publisher, editor and author 1791-1873) in 1842 'as occupying a place between the hotels on the one hand and the coffee rooms on the other. At all these places joints of meat are dressed every day depending on the variety and the extent of the business done, but generally including boiled beef and roast beef as well as the necessary appendages of a dinner" Acknowledgement for this extract to Tracy Gooch-Hinton's: 'A 19th century Eating House in Southwark: Historical Archaeology'. This definition may have mellowed a little by the 1880's but such premises were not classed as pubs.

Historically, pubs have been socially and culturally distinct from cafés and indeed the pub was described by Samuel Pepys as 'the heart of England'

I checked directories and census records for descriptions of the premises at 205 The High Street:

Slaters Commercial Directory of Swansea 1858/9. Under 'eating houses' shows Wm. Gould as 'eating house keeper'. (contd.)

1861 census records Wm Gould, at an 'eating house, boarders and lodgers'. The address was "Welsh Oak" 205 High Street.

1871 census records Wm. Thorne as 'licensed victualler'.

1881 census has Richard Frayne 'Beer retailer and eating house'.

The Cambrian Daily Leader, Swansea Directory 1887 has Peter Frayne 'Welsh Oak dining rooms'.

1891 census has Peter FRAYNE 'restaurant house keeper'. Peter died in August 1891 his death certificate details were...Shoulder of Mutton Eating House at 205 High St. Swansea and his occupation as Eating House Keeper.



1901 census has Richard FRAYNE 'refreshment house keeper'.

1911 census has Richard FRAYNE 'licensed victualler'.

In the 1880s and 90s No. 205 was also referred to as 'Peter FRAYNES 'Welsh Oak Dining Rooms' and later became known as FRAYNES 'Dining Rooms'.

Around 1910 it was also described as 'Richard FRAYNES owned Restaurant'.

To my knowledge it remained so, at least until after my Aunt was born there in 1913 and as mentioned above at the time

Richard FRAYNE was granted probate of my grandfather's will.

So, when did the 'Shoulder of Mutton' become a Public House? Most likely between 1919 and 1922 when a Hector GRAY was listed as landlord.

Sadly as this photograph shows the 'Pub' is now closed and appears to be derelict.

I thought the next phase was to establish how this premises came into the family scene.

Taking census returns as a starting point I found that between 1861 and 1871 William THORNE, who was my paternal grandmother's maternal grandfather, left North Molton, Devon, where he was a mason and arrived in Swansea. Initially he may have worked as a mason but in the 1871 census he is at 205 High Street, Swansea and a licensed victualler.

However, the census tells me he must have firstly lived in Cardiff as in 1868 a son was born there. The next child, was born in Swansea in 1870 suggesting he took over No. 205 between 1868 and 1870. In 1881 he is still there.

However, I found that he had a family connection with the previous occupier, William GOULD, who was his cousin. He had left North Molton and was at No. 205 High St. in 1861.

After Wm. THORNE left the premises was taken over by Peter FRAYNE, also from North Molton, who had married Catherine Gould THORNE, Wm. THORNE'S sister. Peter and Catherine had previously run the Cross Keys Inn in Swansea where my grandmother was born in 1878.

Having progressed thus far the remaining connection was easier. Peter FRAYNES'S daughter was my grandmother who married my paternal grandfather John Francis BRIDGER.

So concluding a rather complex research I am happily confident that my father was not born in a 'PUB!

Acknowledgements. Various Directories and census returns as listed. 'Swansea Your Story' Yahoo Group. Contributor 'ye olde drunk' for background and Google for the photograph.

#### TRAGEDY AT SEA

By John Symons

Our ancestors' lives were far riskier than our own with disease, accidents and so on quite common occurrences. Arguably one of the occupations most open to risk was as a seafarer although mining would be another contender.

This was brought home to me quite recently when researching a cousin of whom I was unaware. I had found him mentioned in the will of my 5xg. grandfather Robert REAN which I found in the Cornwall Record Office. Robert died in 1780 and it made interesting reading not least because he was very probably complicit in smuggling activities around Fowey, Cornwall. He had certainly acquired wealth and had the largest memorial in the churchyard in Lansallos.

One of his many bequests was to his grandson. His name was, as written in the will, William HOPPING but I deduced that this man was more commonly known as William HOPPEN.

This William was a mariner as described in his marriage to Elizabeth PASCOE in 1790 at Fowey Parish Church. Virtually all the family were connected with the sea in one way or the other so this was not a surprise, neither was it when one of his sons, Edward born in 1799, followed his father's footsteps to also became a mariner. In fact when he married Ann SANDERCOCK in St. Martins by Looe in 1827 he was described as a Master Mariner or captain of a vessel.

Having found a subsequent marriage for Edward to Catherine Veale in Charles Church, Plymouth in 1849 he was shown as a widower. Nevertheless wherever I looked I could find no reference to the death of Ann his first wife either in burials or the early years of civil registration. A speculative search of newspapers soon provided the answer. A report in the North Devon Journal of 9<sup>th</sup> November 1837 carried the report of a shipwreck on the breakwater in Plymouth Sound of the schooner 'Albion', captain Edward HOPPEN. The vessel was carrying a cargo of cork from Portugal bound for Newcastle. Bad storms had beset the ship and the captain attempted to reach Plymouth, a port which he would have known well but the ship did not make it past the breakwater guarding the entrance to Plymouth Sound. (contd.)

To compound his difficulties his wife and youngest child Thirza were aboard. Naturally his first thoughts were to save them but in attempting to get them on to the breakwater both were washed away by the violent seas and drowned. The child's body was later washed up on the nearby beach at Wembury but no report of his wife's body was made which I believe explains why no burial record is available. His daughter was however buried a week later.

Although Edward was injured he was later rescued by local boatmen and crew from Royal Navy vessels, as were his crew. The ship caught fire as a result of the cabin stove being overturned and was destroyed.

It seems that these events understandably put paid to Edward's desire to continue at sea for after his second marriage he became a pawnbroker in Plymouth. He had five children by his second marriage, four of whom survived childhood. His business was listed in the Devon Trades Directories of the time. It may not have had the kudos of being a ship's captain but it was a lot safer.

#### A STRANGE FIND

By Alan Rowland

Anybody who has researched a family history will be familiar with images of the census records.

1841 was the first census to give some modicum of useful information for the researcher and it took the form of a single pre-printed sheet with two sets of entries – one to the left and the other to the right.

Each of the subsequent census records (1851; 1861; 1871; 1881; 1891 and 1901) presented the information on standard pre-printed forms with a new design to give much more information. This information appeared in a series of columns which by and large remained the same until the 1911 census. The column headings varied in their wording but the form was set i.e. a number of households on each sheet. (contd.)

1911 broke this mould when it was required that the 'Head of the Household' complete the form in their own handwriting. New columns were added to show how many years a marriage had lasted, the number of children born alive and number of children still living.

All of this is normal and we are well used to the census sheets.

However on the last Friday in the research room before our summer break a strange discovery was made. A member was heavily involved in tracing a particular member of her ancestors and after we found several relevant census records we looked for the individual on the 1861 census.

What we found was a little surprising and all the research helpers in the room agreed that they had not seen anything similar. It was also strange that the sheet we were interested in and the sheet immediately preceding it both had the same layout. All other sheets in the series were of the standard type. Reproduced below is the sheet that we found.

As you can see the sheet looks as if it has been hand drawn – not the preprinted form normally used.

Presumably the enumerator had reached the end of his supply of the official forms when he realised that he still had enough material to fill two more sheets. Did he want to complete the district there and then and therefore decided on a little improvisation?

Whatever the circumstances he managed to include all the standard columns found on the pre-printed forms except for one!

He omitted the very last right hand column which for the 1861 census was headed 'Whether Blind, or Deaf and Dumb'.

Has anybody discovered similar anomalies concerning census sheets or for that matter any other official records? If you have please send in your findings and we will include them in subsequent journals.

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#### A TALK — THE SEVEN GEORGES

Charles Hampshire

Barry Twigg gave the talk on 19<sup>th</sup> May and as always it was nicely illustrated by slides and utilised his detailed and insider knowledge of royalty. He considered that all the Georges had made a significant contribution to modern monarchy.

The Act of Union of 1701 created Great Britain and Queen Mary had no children or heirs which created the problem of the succession.

George I was offered the monarchy as Parliament wanted a Protestant Monarch who would share power. He reigned from 1714- 1727. He spoke little English and left decision making to his Ministers. He lived mostly in Hanover but did promote the development of the Arts at a time when miniature paintings were very popular. It is said that fashion started with the Georgians. George I also liked clocks.

George II (King 1727-1760). At age 60 he apparently fought with his soldiers against the French. He was the last British monarch to be born outside the UK.

He apparently hated his sons but his reign saw great rises in population and the foundations of the Industrial Revolution and colonisation.

George III (King 1760-1820) suffered from the hereditary condition porphyria which causes temporary 'madness' and purple urine. He was also known as farmer George as he promoted agricultural development. Under his reign Britain moved towards the cabinet form of government and he founded the Royal Academy of Art. He also funded the construction and maintenance of William Herschel's telescope which had a forty-foot focal length and at the time was the biggest ever built.

George IV (King 1820-1830) was Regent for many years. His reign saw the Regency architectural period, the birth of the free press and publishing and an increase in press satire. He bought lots of works of art which are now in the Royal collection and did much to restore Buckingham House and the Royal Pavilion in Brighton. He was a very large man with a 50 inch waist.

George V (King 1910 -1936) was known also as the forgotten King. His reign saw a huge growth in the visual media. The King did much to support troops during the war effort both at home and abroad. He smoked heavily and liked uniforms. As well as a stamp collector he was a keen horseman and often reviewed troops on horseback. His reign saw the rise of Socialism, Communism, Fascism, Irish Republicanism and the Indian independence movement, all of which radically changed the political landscape.

George VI (King 1936-1952) was the reluctant king. He wasn't brought up to be King but had to step in when his elder brother abdicated. He was Prince Albert but took the name George VI to emphasise continuity with his father and restore confidence in the monarchy. He was a happy family man and a good tennis player who played at Wimbledon. He had a speech impediment so his wife made many speeches and during the Second World War they were famous for their walkabouts in the east end. His popularity was also illustrated when in 1945, crowds shouted 'We want the King!' in front of Buckingham Palace during the Victory in Europe celebrations.

Albert had been a heavy smoker since the age of twelve and died of lung cancer. His declining health meant that his daughter (our current Queen) often took on Royal visits.

George VII (born 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2013) is the son of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and third in line to the throne. Members were shown photographs and it was a good end to an interesting talk.

#### A TALK – LAND TAX ASSESSMENTS

John Symons

The talk on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016 was given by Winnie Gomme:

Land tax was introduced in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century during the reign of William and Mary in order to raise money for defence and it was not finally abolished until 1963.

For family historians the tax records are most useful for the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries when records were most complete and in a period that pre-dates civil registration and census records.

The tax was mostly paid by men as they were usually the landowners required to pay in accordance with the value of their property.

When the government decided how much revenue was needed, it informed the counties with an assessment who in turn passed the responsibility to the hundred and from them to individual parishes who collected the tax from landowners in their jurisdiction.

After 1798 landowners could redeem the tax by payment of a lump sum. This sum was associated with the property rather than the individual in perpetuity. This had the effect of increasing the value of the properties for which tax had been redeemed.

However until 1832 the names of the landowners remained on the registers for voting purposes.

The schedules generally record the name of the property owner, the occupier of the property and the assessed value of the property on which the tax was paid.

Coverage of surviving records of tax payments varies widely depending on dates and counties. Most that do survive are retained in County Record Offices. The one exception is that almost the entire collection for England and Wales in 1798 is kept at The National Archives under series IR 23. Winnie provided many examples of the schedules from these returns for inspection. (contd.)

In the case of Middlesex and London generally we are quite fortunate that more records survive than for most other counties. These records are now kept at the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) and have a theoretical coverage of 1692 to 1932 although the majority cover the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. These have recently been digitised under the LMA's agreement with Ancestry who have indexed them by name. Search for 'London, England, Land Tax Records, 1692-1932' in the card catalogue.

Other counties available on line are Dorset, Surrey, Warwickshire and West Yorkshire.

In addition Ancestry also have available the 1798 schedules from the National Archives. Look for 'UK, Land Tax Redemption, 1798' in the card catalogue. FindmyPast have land tax assessments for Cheshire.

For more details about these taxes and the availability of surviving records organised by county please consult 'Land and Window Tax Assessments' by Jeremy Gibson, Mervyn Medlycott and Dennis Mills published by the Federation of Family History Societies. A copy is held in the Society's library.

A typical example of a Land Tax record is shown below.

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The National Archives; Kew, Richmond; Surrey, Land Tax Redemption

Office: Quotas and Assessments, IR23; Piece: 49

Image: Example of Land Tax for 1798 for Harmondsworth.

### A TALK — HOOKED BY A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS. THE STORY OF A WATERLOO VETERAN.

by Pam Pearce

Pam Pearce gave this talk on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July.



Isabella Woodgate in her 80s

It was my Grandmother, Woodgate, Isabella née Young, who sparked off my interest in our family history, while I was still at junior school. Every Christmas she received a box of longstemmed white flowers. which she called Chincherinchees, from South Africa. I asked why she received them and explained that her youngest brother, James Young, had been killed in the First World War in 1914 and his widow, Connie, had married again and settled in South Africa. Yet Connie never forgot her sister-in-law and sent this gift every December. I used to post letters from Grandma all over the world, to her many far-flung relations and stored all these facts without doing much about them.

Then I married a man very interested in Family and Local History and so I began to research the things that Grandma had told me. I knew that she had been born in Preston, Lancashire in 1868, but she was not registered in the general records and after a long search I realised that she was an Army baby who had been born in Preston barracks! (contd.)

Her father John Young had been serving in the 69<sup>th</sup> Foot, and fortunately, I discovered that my mother had his Army Pay-Book and this was a great help in researching his Army career.

At the age of one, my Grandmother was taken with her 5 elder siblings to the village of Tarves outside Aberdeen, where her father having retired from the army became Sergeant Instructor to the Earl of Aberdeen's Local Volunteers, at Haddo House. This also explained why she had such a strong Scottish accent.

The Pay-Book revealed that when John Young joined the army his father James, also in the army, was recorded as next of kin. I encountered a brick wall as I tried to find further details of James Young and his parents in Ireland. After many attempts spread over many years all without success, I decided instead to trace his army career and later life, all of which uncovered a remarkable story.



James Young was born in Killyleagh, Co. Down in 1796/7. At the age of 16 he enlisted in the 6<sup>th</sup> Inniskilling Dragoons in 1812, as a Trooper/Cornet. In 1815 his regiment was sent to France and took part in the Battle of Waterloo.

His was a cavalry regiment so their first priority was to care for their horses and on the day of the battle, they were roused with a bugle call at 4 a.m. in pouring rain. The first priority was to feed and water the horses before they had their own meagre breakfast.

A 6<sup>th</sup> Inniskilling Dragoon in Battle Uniform 1815.

The terrible weather had made the ground waterlogged, slippery and muddy. The men could hear the battle bugles sounding and the drums beating as they prepared to fight. In the early afternoon they were called into battle and took part in a major cavalry charge by the Union Brigade led by Sir William Ponsonby.

They were slightly hidden from the enemy by a sunken road, a ditch and a hedge so as they started the assault they surprised the enemy by jumping across these obstacles before charging down the slope of the hill towards the farmhouse of La Haye Sainte, standing in their stirrups and roaring lrish War cries.

The French eventually repelled this onslaught and in the skirmish that followed, James was wounded in his shoulder, leg and back. He was lucky not to be killed. More than half his troop led by Captain Browne were dead, but the French cavalry suffered even more. After the battle James helped in the task of taking thousands of French prisoners to Brussels, and the regiment stayed in France for a further six months until they returned to England. Although he suffered from his wounds for the rest of his life he was not rewarded with an appropriate pension because he seems to have been missed out in the records and consequently received less than he was entitled to.

In 1817 the regiment was based in Cornwall and in October 1817 he obtained permission from the regimental adjutant to marry a local girl Mary Peake. In the years that followed, Mary followed him all over the British Isles wherever the Dragoons were stationed. My great grandfather, John Young, their fourth child, was born in Sheffield in 1827. In all they had eight children including a set of twins.

James left the army in 1840 and moved to Edinburgh to begin a new life without Mary. This new life became very complicated. Mary and James's youngest son was only five when James arrived in Edinburgh but there was no sign of either Mary or her son. After a great deal of searching through the thousands of woman named Mary Young in Edinburgh at that time, Mary was found working as a governess in Edinburgh, but she was alone with no sign of her son or any of her other children.

Then I found a record for 1843 of James living with another woman, who had given birth to a son.

This lady, Elizabeth Morris, died the next year leaving James with a baby son Charles. Within 18 months he had bigamously married again to Helen Young and with her he had a further three daughters.

In Edinburgh James worked from 1840 as a policeman and then a valet. In 1855 he was a policeman in Fife and in the 1861 census was a railway porter in Blairgowrie. When his last daughter was born he was aged 64.

James was a larger than life character; each year on the anniversary of the Battle he would parade through the streets of Blairgowrie dressed in his great coat, decorated with laurel leaves wearing his medals and full dress sword. He would also decorate his house.

He died in Blairgowrie in January 1879 aged 82 and was given a funeral with full military and Masonic honours complete with a seven gun salute over his grave. Over 5,000 people witnessed the event which took place in a snowstorm. He had certainly lived life to the full.

After I had almost finished my research, out of the blue, I had a message from a lady who was also researching the life of our James Young. She turned out to be descended from the middle daughter, Mary Campbell Young, of his third family. She was amazed at what I had found as they had no idea of James's previous colourful life.

On June 15<sup>th</sup> 2015, the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle, I was very proud to be invited to attend the Service of Remembrance in St. Paul's Cathedral on behalf of my family. My Grandmother would have been so proud of what had been achieved and all because of a bouquet of flowers.

#### Resources:

The National Archives; Soldiers records. W0 series.

The Edinburgh Record Office.

The Village of Tarves Heritage Centre, Aberdeen, and Haddo House Records.

6<sup>th</sup> Inniskilling Dragoons records and War Diary, held at the Royal Dragoon Guards Museum, York. (contd.)

'Waterloo' by Bernard Cornwell.

'Waterloo' by Tim Clayton.

'Waterloo 1815 — The Birth of Modern Europe' by Geoffrey Wootten.

'Soldiers of the Napoleonic Wars, No 8, The Union Brigade', by Bryan Fosten.

'Waterloo' by Peter and Dan Snow.

'Waterloo Voices' by Martyn Beardsley.

'Waterloo the Decisive Victory' edited by Colonel Nick Lipscombe.

'Waterloo The Aftermath' by Paul O'Keefe.

'The Waterloo Battlefield Guide' by David Buttery.

'The Blairgowrie Advertiser' for 1878 and 1879, held at Blairgowrie Library

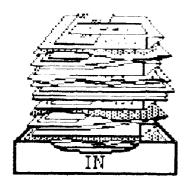
'The History of Blairgowrie' pub. 1899 by John A.R.MacDonald.

1841/51/61/71/81 Scottish Census.

Scotland's People, Ancestry, FindMyPast Websites.

### FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Pat Reynolds



Current membership is slightly below the total at this time last year. So once again if you have family or friends who might be interested in researching their family history, please encourage them to come along to our meetings and ensure that they know about our research room with all the help that is available to them.

Also don't forget to mention that we go to Uxbridge library on the first Saturday of each month from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Finally, members are still not making use of the 'Help Line' feature in the journal. This facility may well help you to find that elusive ancestor.

Patricia Reynolds

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

	P.O. Box 1059, Comfort,
Email: mfl@hctc.net	Texas (TX) 78013, United States
M99 Mrs. Anne Moss	20 Churchill Close, Hillingdon,
Email: a.moss187@btinternet.com	Middlesex. UB10 0EA

## WELCOME AGAIN TO REJOINING MEMBER

W8 Mrs. Melanie Winterbotham	41 Highgrove Way,
Email: melaniew@btinternet.com	Middlesex. HA4 8EA

## **CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS**

A35 Mr. Nick Ashby	Email: nickashby87@yahoo.co.uk

#### **HEDGERLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Their programme details are available from the secretary John Lovelock **jdlovelock@btinternet.com** or 01753 647187

Their meetings take place on Wednesdays at 8.00 p.m. at; Hedgerley Memorial Hall, Kiln Lane, Hedgerley SL2 3UZ

## **UXBRIDGE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

This society has a website which can be viewed on:

www.eddiethecomputer.co.uk/history/

Details of their programme will appear on their website.

## RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD AND EASTCOTE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote local history society hold their meetings on Mondays in St Martin's Church Hall, High Street, Ruislip at 8.15pm.

For further information, please contact The Programme Secretary on 01895 673299.

Below is their programme for 2016 – 2017.

2016			
19 September	Meet the Huguenots	Charlie de Wet Chair Huguenots of Spitalfields	
17 October	AGM & 2000 years of Road Signs and some local ones	Simon Morgan (RNELHS) Author of DfT's 'History of British Traffic Signs'	
21 November	What shaped Pinner before the Railways	Pat Clarke Pinner History Society	
19 December	Christmas Meeting	RNELHS Members	
2017			
16 January	Medieval Middlesex: the archaeological remains	Adam Corsini MoL Arch. Coll. Manager	
20 February	The Knights Templar and their London connections	Robert Stephenson City of London Guide	
20 March	A History of Harefield Hospital	Andrew Willis HH Ex Employee & Patient	
24 April	Mr Guy's Hospital and the Caribbean	Jane Bowden-Dan Fulham & Hammersmith HS	

## WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Regular meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of each month at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow and start at 7.45 pm.

Meetings include talks on aspects of family or local history. In addition, many of the Society's resources and indexes are normally available for consultation from about 7.15 pm. Note that parking in the adjacent car park on Montague Road is free after 6.30 pm. Meetings for 2016 are:

Title	Speaker
Questors Reminiscence Roadshow – Down Our High Street	
Otto and the Margarine Factory – Danish Entrepreneurs in Late Victorian Southall	Peter Hounsell
Convict Transport	Ian Weller
War Memorials of the Great War within the Borough of Hounslow	David Bright
Christmas on the Home Front 1939-45 plus Christmas Social	Mike Brown
	Questors Reminiscence Roadshow - Down Our High Street Otto and the Margarine Factory - Danish Entrepreneurs in Late Victorian Southall Convict Transport War Memorials of the Great War within the Borough of Hounslow Christmas on the Home Front

### **HELP LINE – BRICK WALLS DEMOLISHED?**

In this part of the journal we advertise pleas, from members and non-members, for information and assistance. If you have become "stuck" on some part of your family tree but believe that the answer may lie here in our corner of Middlesex, our local knowledge may be able to help.

Members may advertise at no cost, but a charge of £2 for each entry is made for non-members. Send your queries (with as much specific detail as possible please), together with payment, to the membership secretary:-

Mrs Patricia Reynolds, 20 Lilac Place, Yiewsley, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 8LR.

## RESEARCH BY HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



?



The society undertakes a limited amount of investigation on behalf of members and others.

(contd.)

Local investigations involving the London Borough of Hillingdon and its nine ancient parishes will generally be restricted to the sources detailed in 'Family History in Hillingdon' published by the society (at present in the process of being updated and revised).

In addition we can extend searches using the London Metropolitan Archives and the National Archives at Kew and other London record offices.

We can also carry out national investigations embracing the whole of the U.K. as well as other countries worldwide.

The society charges members £5.00 per hour for pursuing such enquiries (£10.00 per hour for non-members), plus the cost of any expenses necessarily incurred such as copying, postage etc.

Those who want to make use of this service should be specific as to their requirements and should indicate clearly the upper limit of expenditure they are willing to incur. It must be appreciated that in some cases an investigation may not produce any results or may result in a negative answer, in these cases a charge will still have to be made.

Please contact the Membership Secretary or email the society, see back cover for contact information.

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## HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

# Please note that prices are in pounds (£) sterling and EXCLUDE postage and packing (see below).

THESE RECORDS ARE AVAILABLE ON CD – ROM	Cost
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Holy Trinity Church, Northwood, Middx. Monumental Inscriptions.	5.50
St. Martin's Church, West Drayton, Middx. Monumental Inscriptions.	5.50
The Church School, Ickenham, Middx. Pupils & Teachers 1873–1929	5.50
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The Church School, Ickenham, Middx. Pupils & Teachers 1873–1929 (set of 2)	2.00
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Please add postage and packaging as follows:

For each set of fiche		£1.00
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For airmail to overseas addresses	Fmail Mrs (	G May for costs

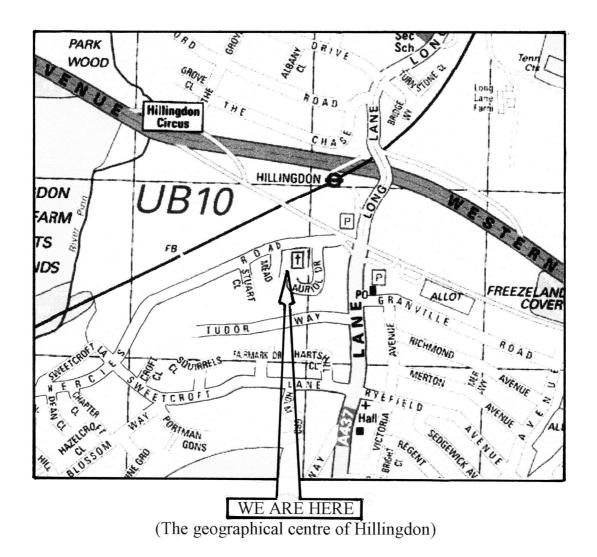
Cheques should be in pounds STERLING, crossed A/C payee and made payable to Hillingdon Family History Society.

The publications can be obtained from the Publications Officer:

Mrs. Gill May, 20 Moreland Drive, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 8BB Telephone: **01753 885602** Email: **gillmay20@btinternet.com** 

or alternatively visit these on—line bookshops:

www.parishchest.com and www.genfair.com



Hillingdon Park Baptist Church, 25 Hercies Road, Hillingdon (car park at rear of church accessed from Auriol Drive).

There is also a public car park on the eastern side of Long Lane (access between the Co-op & the Chinese take away restaurant, or via the exit slip road off the A40 from London). The nearest L.T. station is Hillingdon and there is a U2 bus stop on Hercies Road outside the Church. Please note that the main entrance to the building is on the side of the Church. Our Research Room is on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor and is open one morning each week (Friday or the first Saturday of the month) as well as at our monthly meetings. A bulletin issued at every monthly meeting gives the opening dates of the Research Room. The Society does not meet or open the Research Room during August.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

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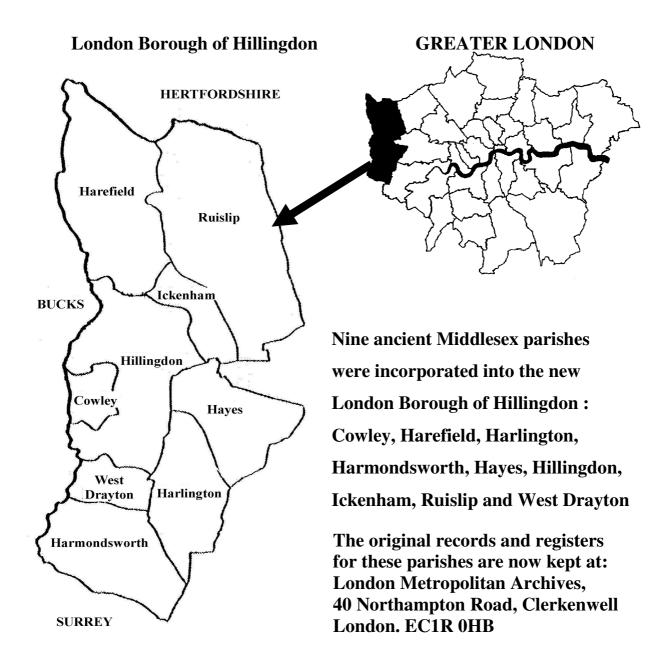
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Hillingdon today embraces a mixture of Greater London suburbs, ancient and modern, large and small, each with its own distinctive identity. Heathrow Airport lies at the Southern end of the borough. Other localities in the Borough include Colham Green, Eastcote, Longford, Northwood, Ruislip Manor, Sipson, South Ruislip, Uxbridge, Yeading and Yiewsley.

## IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO:

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